

JULY 15.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Fourteen persons present.

The death of J. B. McCreary, a member, was announced.

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JULY 22.

Dr. JOSEPH LEIDY in the chair.

Sixteen persons present.

*Explosion of a Diamond.*—Prof. LEIDY exhibited a black agate sleeve button, having mounted upon it, centrally in a raised gold band, a rose diamond about 7 mm. broad. It had been submitted to him by Mr. Ernst Kretzmar, jeweller, who informed him that the person who wore it recently was leaning with his head upon his hand, on a window ledge in the sun, when the diamond exploded audibly, and with sufficient force to drive a fragment into his hand, and another into his forehead. On examining the diamond, the fractured surface, following a cleavage plane, exhibits apparently the remains of a thin cavity, such as is sometimes seen in quartz crystals. The fracture also exposes a conspicuous particle of coal. Prof. Leidy thought that the explosion had been due to the sudden expansion of a volatile liquid contained in the cavity, as frequently occurs in cavities in many minerals.

Mr. Goldsmith thought that the liquid might be carbonic acid, as he was impressed with the idea that diamonds originated from this material in the liquid condition.

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JULY 29.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Twenty-four persons present.

The deaths of Francis Garden Smyth, M.D., a member, and Prof. Edouard Spach, a correspondent, were announced.

*Remarks on Orgyia*—Prof. LEIDY remarked that *Orgyia leucostigma*, which now seriously infested the shade trees of our city, especially the horse-chestnuts and silver-maples, had recently passed into the moth stage. The trunks of the trees, and the surrounding railing of the square opposite to the Academy ex-

hibit a profusion of cocoons. In seeking for specimens of the male moth, he had collected only three, in a walk along one side of the square, from the railing, where hundreds of the wingless females were to be obtained, as they rested with their foamy white masses of eggs on their cocoons. From the fewness of the males he was led to suspect that the females might, perhaps, in many instances, deposit the eggs in an unfecundated condition. To ascertain if this were so, he collected several dozen cocoons with pupæ of females, distinguished by their comparatively robust character, and placed them in a covered box in his study in the third story of a back building, separated from the nearest place where there were other cocoons by the front building and the width of the street in front of his house. As the females came out of the cocoons, distended with eggs, these, with the exception of a few which appeared to be accidentally dropped in several individuals, were retained. After some days, as none of the females laid their eggs, the box was uncovered, and on the second morning subsequently, several individuals had deposited masses of eggs, though no males were present in the box. However, on examining the vicinity, four male moths were detected on the outside of the curtain of the window in which the box had been placed, from which it was supposed that the females had been visited by males attracted during the night from the neighborhood.

The case related reminded him that some years ago a collector of butterflies in the suburbs, informed him that he frequently obtained male specimens of the *Ceeropia* and *Luna* moths by pinning females to the side of the window, when, in the morning after, he would almost certainly find males in conjunction with them. The means by which the males thus find their mates at night and in out-of-the-way places were not obvious, as the insects appear to be incapable of producing sounds or scents that are appreciable to our senses.

J. M. Taylor was elected a member.

Gustav Mayr, of Vienna, and C. Emery, of Palermo, were elected correspondents.

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AUGUST 5.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Sixteen persons present.

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AUGUST 12.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Eighteen persons present.